

State of California
California Regional Water Quality Control Board
Colorado River Basin Region

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 20, 2010, 10:00 a.m.
City Hall Council Chambers
City of La Quinta
78-495 Calle Tampico
La Quinta, CA 92253

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Colorado River Basin Region, was called to order by the Chair Ellen Way at 10:05 a.m. on May 20, 2010 at La Quinta, California.

Roll Call (Board Members Only)

Board Members Present:

Tom Davis, Jeff Hays, Red Martinez, Edward Muzik, Ellen Way. The Board Secretary stated that a quorum was present.

Staff Present:

Jose Angel, Terry Barnes, John Carmona, Francisco Costa, Kai Dunn, Jeff Geraci, Abdi Haile, Phan Le, Jeong-Hee Lim, Robert Perdue, Logan Raub, Jon Rokke, Joan Stormo, Hilda Vasquez, Doug Wylie, Nadim Zeywar.

Others Present:

Bill Bayne, City of Cathedral City
Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District
Robert Edmunds, City of Indio
Ann Iaali, Riverside County Flood Control
Ed Wimmer, City of La Quinta
Tom Vandenberg, State Water Board, Office of the Chief Counsel

MINUTES

1. Minutes of March 18, 2010 Board Meeting

MOTION: Red Martinez moved, Tom Davis seconded, and motion carried unanimously that the Minutes be adopted with errata.

PUBLIC FORUM

2. No Public Comments.

UNCONTESTED NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM PERMITS AND WASTE DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

3. R7-2010-0009 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit and Waste Discharge Requirements for **State of California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation, Centinela State Prison Wastewater Treatment Plant**, Imperial — Imperial County (Amendment)

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2010-0009 be adopted.

4. R7-2010-0022 Waste Discharge Requirements for City of Brawley, **City of Brawley Wastewater Treatment Plant**, Brawley — Imperial County (New)

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Ed Muzik seconded, and motion carried unanimously that Order No. R7-2010-0022 be adopted.

UNCONTESTED BASIN PLAN AMENDMENTS

5. R7-2010-0011 Resolution for **Basin Plan Amendment – Dissolved Oxygen Total Maximum Daily Load for the New River**

MOTION: Tom Davis moved, Jeff Hays seconded. The motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2010-0011 be adopted with errata.

6. R7-2010-0027 Resolution for **Basin Plan Amendment to Revise Indicator Bacteria for the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel**

MOTION: Ed Muzik moved, Jeff Hays seconded. The motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2010-0027 be adopted with errata.

RESOLUTION FOR EMERGENCY ABANDONED, AND RECALCITRANT SITES

7. R7-2010-0029 Adoption of the **FY 2010/2011 Emergency, Abandoned, and Recalcitrant (EAR) Account Site List (New)**

MOTION: Jeff Hays moved, Tom Davis seconded. The motion carried unanimously that Resolution No. R7-2010-0029 be adopted.

OTHER BUSINESS

8. Informational Update on E. coli bacteria monitoring program – Steve Bigley

Steve Bigley, Coachella Valley Water District, presented an E. coli bacteria monitoring report prepared for the Coachella Valley Agricultural Stakeholders Task Force. The report found that Coachella Valley agricultural discharges are not the cause for E. coli impairment of the Coachella Valley Storm Water Channel (CVSC). The report also found that CVSC is still impaired by E. coli bacteria.

9. Informational Update on City of Cathedral City Groundwater Protection Efforts – Cathedral City Representatives

Bill Bayne, City Engineer for Cathedral City, spoke on behalf of the Mayor about the City's groundwater protection efforts in the Cove area through sewerage and eliminating septic tanks. Mr. Bayne describe the ongoing effort to hookup the remaining households to the system and thanked the Regional Board for its support, both financial and regulatory, on the project. Board Member Tom Davis stated he had followed this project over the years and strongly commended the City for its efforts in protecting Water Quality.

10. Informational Update on Enforcement Report and Basin Plan Amendment – DW/JS

A. Grants – Doug Wylie

In 2008 the State Water Resources Control Board awarded Imperial Irrigation District a \$900,000 grant from the Propositions 50 and 84 Agricultural Water Quality Grant Program. The funds were not available until now because of the

state budget problems. IID can now begin work on this three year project to improve its agricultural drain system.

The Coachella Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Group met on May 19, 2010, to begin planning development of their program project list. This will be followed on June 22, 2010, with a public meeting in Rancho Mirage to continue the development of the list.

B. Informational Update on Basin Plan Amendments Under Development – Joan Stormo

The Basin Planning Unit is currently developing five amendments. These are:

1. A non regulatory amendment to correct/update language, tables or figures in the basin plan that are inaccurate or out of date, due to new regulations or information.
→ Board consideration for adoption estimated for September, 2010.
2. A prohibition and implementation plan to conditionally prohibit agricultural wastewater discharges in Palo Verde Valley and Palo Verde Mesa.
→ Board consideration for adoption estimated for September, 2010.
3. A conditional prohibition of wastewater discharges from septic systems in Yucca Valley to mitigate/eliminate nitrate contamination to groundwater in the Warren subbasin.
→ Board consideration for adoption estimated for late 2010/early2011.
4. An amendment to suspend REC-I (Water Contact Recreation) beneficial use during critical flow in part of the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel extending from Point Happy to the Salton Sea.
→ Board consideration for adoption estimated for 2012.
5. A prohibition and implementation plan to conditionally prohibit agricultural wastewater discharges in the Coachella Valley.
→ Board consideration for adoption estimated for 2012.

11. Informational Update on Damage to Sewage Infrastructure by El Mayor-Cucapah Earthquake – JA

Jose Angel presented a report on the damage that the 'El Major-Cucapah' Earthquake of April 4, 2010, caused to the sewage infrastructure in the Imperial Valley and Mexicali. He stated that in general there was very little damage to the sewage infrastructure in Mexicali, but there was significant damage to the Mexicali Valley water supply infrastructure (more than \$500,000,000 in damage). He added that damage to the water supply infrastructure will delay implementation of additional sewage projects in Mexicali. Regarding the Imperial Valley, he said that the City of Calexico Waste Water Treatment Plant (WWTP) suffered significant damage and the State Board and Regional Board are assisting the City with funds from the State Cleanup and Abatement Account to

repair the damage, including repair of damaged clarifiers, lagoons, and a broken 36-inch sewer main that was releasing 300,000 gallons per day of raw sewage into the New River. The release has been stopped, but the sewer main still needs to be repaired and the WWTP is overloaded because of the damage to the clarifiers and lagoons. Further, he stated that the City of El Centro WWTP also suffered serious damage, including damage to several clarifiers, but the WWTP is operational. Regional Board staff will continue to work closely with EL Centro and Calexico to assist them repair the damage. The rest of the WWTPs in the Imperial Valley suffered little or no damage.

12. Informational Update on State Water Resources Control Board Activities – TV

Tom Vandenberg discussed the confirmation status of two State Water Board members. He also gave an update on the status of the revised Water Quality Enforcement Policy, which was adopted by the State Water Board on November 17, 2009 and is pending review by the Office of Administrative Law.

13. Colorado River Basin Water Board Executive Officer's Report – RP

Robert Perdue, Executive Officer, described the likely scenario of the state workforce receiving federal minimum wage starting July 1, 2010 and lasting until the legislature passes and the governor signs a budget. Mr. Perdue stated that Region 7 appears to have sufficient funds to close out the present fiscal year, which ends June 30th. However, the budget for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts July 1st may have negative impacts on Region 7 funding.

Additionally, the Executive Officer explained the ongoing development of Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) by Regional Board staff for the numerous proposed solar projects within the Region. The WDRs are being incorporated into the California Energy Commission in-lieu permits. In order to assure compliance with WDRs that are protective of water quality, the WDRs will at a later date be presented to the Regional Board for consideration for adoption.

14. Colorado River Basin Water Board Member Comments

Board Member Tom Davis reported on his field trip with the Executive Officer to the Torres-Martinez constructed wetlands at the NW end of the Salton Sea close to the entry point for the Coachella Valley Storm Drain/Whitewater River. Mr. Davis stated the project used natural means to scrub the water and provide dust control. He recommended other Board Members visit the project.

Board Member Ed Muzik commented on the increased supply, up to 40%, of state water project available to water purveyors due to the heavy Sierra snowpack.

15. Colorado River Basin Water Board Chair's Report – EW

Chair Ellen Way announced that the June 17, 2010 Regional Board meeting would be held at the High Desert Water Agency in Yucca Valley, starting at 9:00 a.m. with a Closed Session for the Executive Officer's performance review.

CLOSED SESSION

16. At any time during the regular session, the Board may adjourn to meet in closed session to consider the appointment, employment, evaluation of performance, or dismissal of a public employee [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(a)]; to consider evidence received in an adjudicatory hearing and deliberate on a decision to be reached based on that evidence [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(c)(3)]; to discuss significant exposure to litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(B)(i)]; to discuss whether to initiate litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)(C)(i)]; or to discuss initiated litigation [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)]. Discussion of litigation is within the attorney-client privilege and may be held in closed session [Authority: Government Code Section 11126(e)(2)].

a. EXECUTIVE OFFICER PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEXT BOARD MEETING: **Thursday, June 17, 2010, 10:00 a.m. in Yucca Valley.**

Adjournment: 12:35 p.m.

MOTION: Tom Davis moved, Jeff Hays seconded. The motion carried unanimously that the meeting be adjourned.